

RUTLAND VT
EAST PARISH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
INFORMATION RELATING TO CHURCH
HISTORY


FROM THIS'S and THAT'S

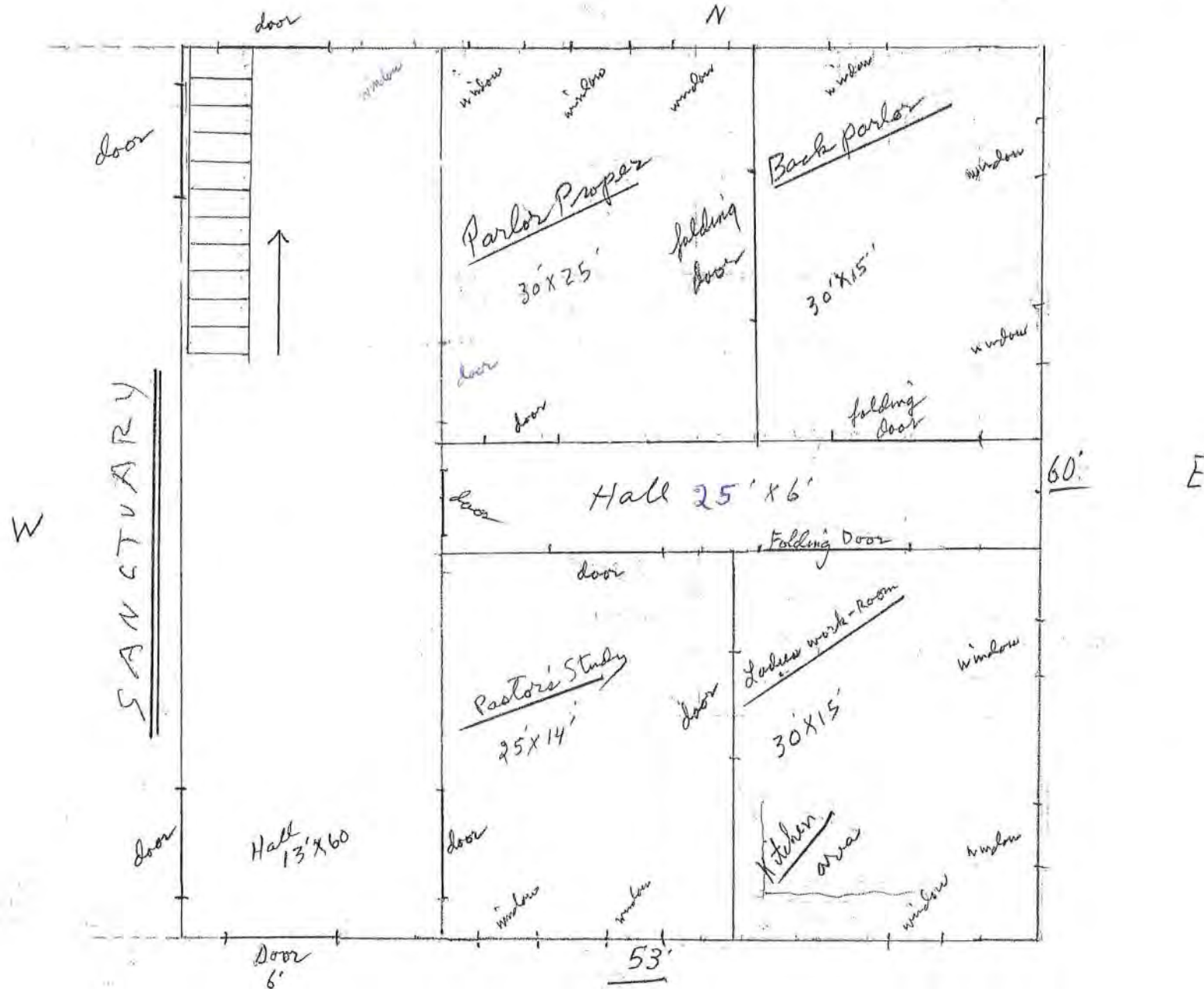
IN EARLY TIMES THE CONGREGATIONAL GROUP OCCUPIED AN OLD LOG STRUCTURE (circa ?? 1760 - 1780 ??) NEAR THE EVERGREEN CEMETERY IN CENTER RUTLAND.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WAS ERECTED AT NORTH MAIN ST. AND NORTH ST. CORNER IN 1784 - IT REMAINED THERE UNTIL 1881. THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WAS ERECTED NEAR NORTH MAIN ST. AND AIKEN PLACE IN 1819 AND WAS DEDICATED IN 1821. IT WAS TORN DOWN IN 1863.

THE THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SAW CONSTRUCTION STARTED IN 1858 AT THE CORNER OF COURT AND CENTER STREETS NORTH OF THE PRESENT CITY LIBRARY BUILDING AND WAS DEDICATED IN 1860. THE COST WAS \$29,316.70.

PRIOR TO THE ERECTION OF THE THIRD AND PRESENT CHURCH, A LECTURE ROOM (CHAPEL) WAS ERECTED ON THE SITE OF THE BAKE HOUSE NEAR THE OLD GARMENT FACTORY AT PARK COURT AND WEST ST. IN 1852 AND USED UNTIL 1860 WHEN IT WAS MOVED TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE CHURCH. IT WAS TORN DOWN IN 1873 TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW BRICK CHAPEL TO BE BUILT AS AN ADDITION TO THE CHURCH BUILDING PROPER IN THE SAME YEAR.





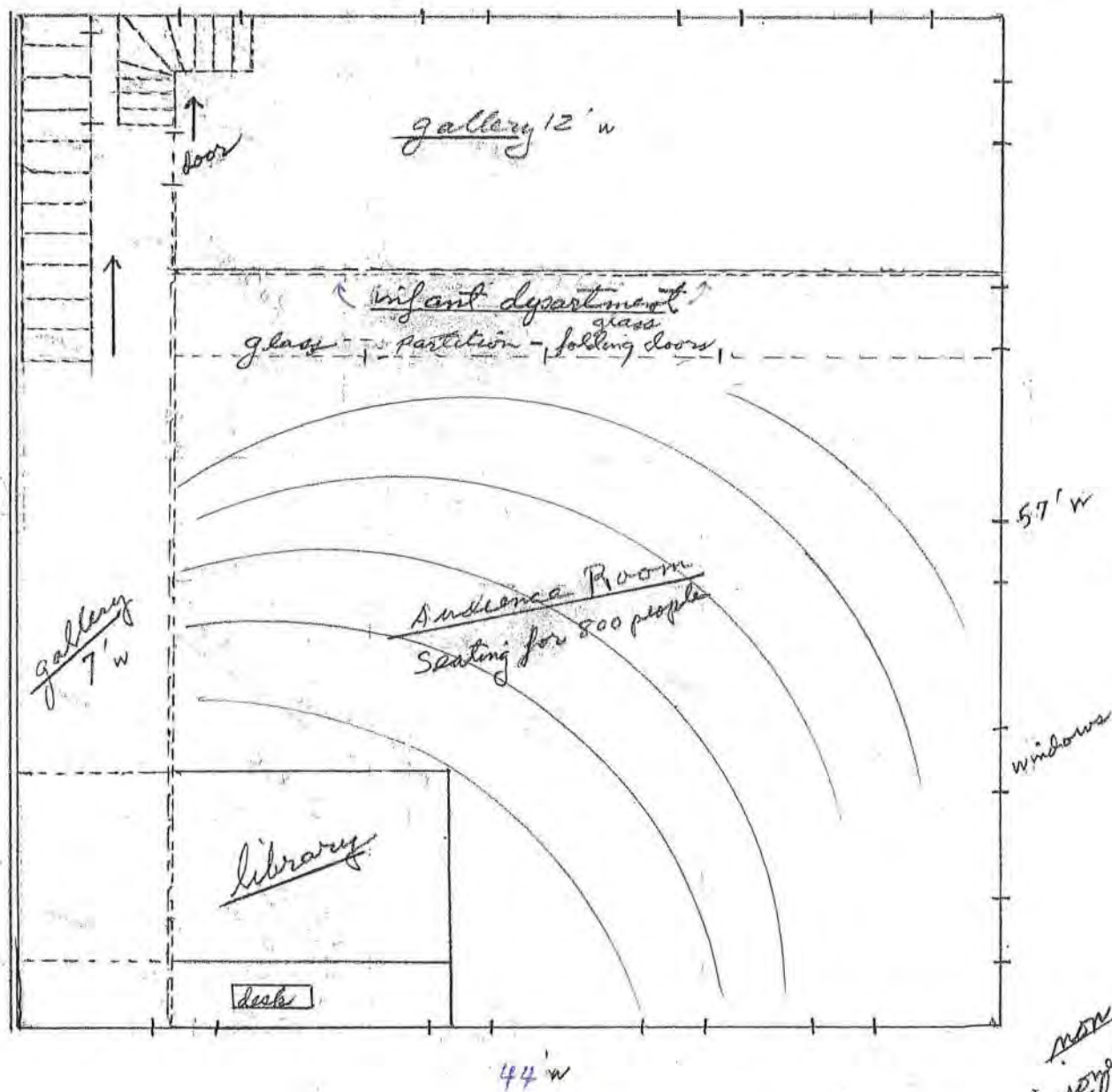
NEW CHAPEL 1873 1st FL.

S

Non-Scale
envisioned SKETCHES
by
M^o 2008

W

Church wall



New Chapel 1873 - 2nd fl & gallery

S

non-scale
envisaged sketch
by
P. J. O.
2008

The New Chapel of the Congregational Church.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING AND ITS ORNAMENTATION.

The new chapel of the Congregational society is to be occupied, for the first time, to-morrow. It therefore seems appropriate that at the present time we should give a short description of the building.

The foundation was laid in the month of July last, and the work has steadily progressed from that time until the present, which finds it all completed except furnishing the rooms in the lower portion.

The originally estimated cost was \$17,000, and when fully furnished, it is expected that it will not vary materially from that amount. It is the intention of the society to have it, when completed, entirely paid for. There are some additional funds to raise which will be forthcoming when wanted, so that the society will not have to carry one dollar additional debt from having built the chapel.

The architecture is the same as the church, Romanesque, and the entire outside finish is made to correspond with that of the church. The material used for the walls is brick, while the roof is shingled. It is built against, and firmly fastened to, the rear or east end of the church.

The building is 53 feet long, 60 feet wide, and stands almost as high as the church, and so close is the general resemblance in size and finish that it would readily be taken for an extension of the church, were it not for the large gable surmounting the roof on each side, and a large ventilator on top.

The principal entrance is a double door six feet wide, on the south side and very near the separating wall of the church. This door opens into a hall 13 feet wide and 60 feet long, running the entire length of the building, but separated by a door near the center into a north and south hall, from each of which opens a door into the church. There is an additional entrance door from the north side of the house into the north hall.

The north hall is provided with a cloak-room, and there are also a number of coat hooks arranged on the walls of the hall. To the right as one passes through the principal entrance, and directly opposite the door leading to the church, is the pastor's study, a pleasant, cheerful room, 14x25, provided with closets and sink and lighted by two large windows, looking south.

Passing along the main hall, the next opening is a hall 6 feet wide by 25 long, leading to the ladies' work-room. This hall is also provided with closets and sink. There is a door opening from the pastor's study into it also. The ladies' work-room is 30 feet by 15, with two windows looking east and one south. From the southwest corner of this room opens the kitchen, provided with a fine large cooking stove, a sink, pantry and all the conveniences of a well arranged culinary laboratory.

Opening off the ladies' room is also a large china closet. From the ladies' room, moving north through a spacious folding door one enters the back parlor, a room the same size as the ladies' room, having two windows looking east and one north.

Passing to the left from this room, through another folding door, one arrives in the parlor proper, a large airy and exceedingly pleasant room 25 feet by 30, lighted during the day by three windows looking north, and in the evening by a large six burner chandelier. From this parlor there are doors opening into the north hall, the south hall and the hall leading to the ladies' work room. The furniture for these rooms has not yet been procured, but as soon as it is we will give our readers a further and fuller description of this portion of the building.

We will now visit the upper portion. Nearly opposite the southern entrance, and resting against the rear wall of the church, is a broad, easy stairway, which we will ascend. Moving upward eleven steps, we reach a roomy landing, then mounting still eleven more steps and we reach the top landing, broad and commodious. To our right opens a double door leading into the audience room, a commodious, elegant and cheerful hall, eminently appropriate for the purpose for which it is designed, an audience room for the Sabbath school, and also for society lectures and prayer meetings.

There is a gallery running along the north and west sides; that on the north 12, and that on the west 7, feet wide. On the north side of the hall, under the gallery, is the infant department, divided from the hall by a glass partition, with very broad glass folding doors. By closing these doors this can be made a separate room, and by opening them it is practically a part of the main hall. The hall, including this room, is 57 feet by 44, with a height in the centre of 26 feet. The gallery is entered by a winding stairway ascending from the landing opposite the door of entrance to the audience room, and enclosed by a railing finished with black walnut. The juvenile department can be entered from the hall direct, without entering the audience room proper. The lecture hall is amply lighted during the day by thirteen large windows, same size and style as those of the church, and during the evening by twenty brackets of cluster burners, containing three each, making sixty burners in all.

Off the south-west corner opens the library room, of sufficient size to easily accommodate a large library. The floor of the entire audience room is covered with a strong matting.

The desk is placed on a raised dais, about fifteen inches high, at the south end of the hall. The desk is made of black walnut, very nicely finished, hard some we may say, but neat and tasty. The hall is seated with black walnut cane bottomed chairs, arranged in a semi-circle around the desk and secured in position by Taylor's patent fastening.

The ceiling of the hall slopes upward from north and south to an angle in the center, and is relieved by four ribs reaching upward from each side. Between and on these ribs the ceiling is most beautifully frescoed in a multitude of colors, among which are brown, pink, carmine, buff, vermillion, drab and three shades of stone color. The wood work of the hall is painted as follows: the stiles, Hanover stone; the panels, pearl, and the mouldings, Naples yellow. The walls are colored grey, with a narrow cornice border of brown fresco.

On the walls are beautifully painted a number of appropriate texts from scripture. The letters are blue German text,

with shaded carmine initials. The initials have each an olive branch of green entwined within them, and wreathed from the last letter of each inscription is a bunch of roses or an exquisite flourish. The inscriptions are as follows. On the east side arching over the windows:

"He that trusteth in the Lord, Mercy shall compass him about."

Under this and between the windows:

"Shew me thy ways."

"Teach me thy statutes."

On the north side, under the gallery,

in the infant department:

"And Jesus called a little child unto Him."

On the south side, above the desk:

"God is our refuge and strength."

On the west side, above the gallery:

"Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

The audience room is furnished with a very fine, pure-toned \$700 Decker piano. The entire cost of the furniture for this room will be about \$2,000. It is heated, as is the entire building, by a large hot air furnace.

The audience room will comfortably seat eight hundred. The building was designed by the architect who planned the church. The building was erected under the direction of the following gentlemen, who were chosen as a building committee by the society: John B. Page, J. M. Haven, Charles Sheldon, Joel B. Harris, A. C. Bates, L. E. Roys. The latter gentleman was chosen general superintendent, and A. C. Bates had the general direction and supervision of the workmen.

The painting was done under the direction of L. Martell, the lettering and frescoing by W. Kretschmer, and the plumbing and gasfitting by S. J. Staley & Co.

Thus have we endeavored to give a general idea of the best-arranged, most beautiful and completest building for the purpose for which it is intended in this section of the country.

The society contemplate frescoing and otherwise repairing the church, for which purpose it will be closed two weeks, and the services will be held in the chapel during that time.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Recent Improvements to the Inside—Newly Carpeted—The Organ Repaired and Re-voiced, Etc., Etc.

The Congregational church, for several weeks past, has been closed and undergoing extensive repairs. These repairs are now completed and the church will be occupied again on next Sabbath.

This church was originally dedicated on Thursday, the 14th day of June, 1860, since which time, until the present, it has received no extensive repairs. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the then pastor, Rev. Dr. Aikin, to a congregation which filled every foot of available space in the church. The inside, at that time, was finished in plain white. Now, however, it is elegantly frescoed on the ceiling and walls. It has undergone such a complete metamorphosis as to be hardly distinguishable inside as the church of a year ago.

The wood work, comprising the facade of the galleries, the ends of the pews and the doors, is finished in four shades. The sunk panels (in the galleries only) are dark red, the raised panels Hanover stone, the stiles buff, and the beads a light tint of green. These colors make a good combination, and the effect is very mild and pleasing. These tints comprise the entire wood work, excepting the inside of the pews, which are painted a stone green, and the railings of the pews, which are black walnut. Running around the entire building, just above the pew railing, is a border seven inches wide. The ground of this border is amber, with light green circles, inside of which are four dark green leaves extending from a carmine center. Above this, and surrounding each door and window, is another border three inches wide. The pattern of this border is a Greek cross and circle of imitation gilt with an imitation gilt strip over the top. The walls above this for three quarters of their height are a light brown stone color. Above this to the top they are of a dark Dayton stone color. Between these two colors is a border about ten inches wide, formed to look hollow, and having a vine running through the center. Next above the Dayton stone come the cornices, which are painted in light blue, pea green and buff, with the background or concaves lilac.

The ceiling is ribbed very closely and between each rib it is painted a grey stone color. At the head of each of these panels, between each rib and in the center of the ceiling, is painted a heavy scroll, composed of three shades of three shades of green, one of lilac and one of Naples yellow. The heavy ribs are Ohio stone color, with a red center, while the beads running in diamonds across this center, are a light pea green. The small ribs are Brooklyn stone color, with a bead of stone color. At the head of each of these panels, between each rib and in the center of the ceiling, is painted a heavy scroll, composed of three shades of three shades of green, one of lilac and one of Naples yellow. The heavy ribs are Ohio stone color, with a red center, while the beads running in diamonds across this center, are a light pea green. The small ribs are Brooklyn stone color, with a bead of Hanover stone.

On the rear wall, at either side of the pulpit and just above the ends of the side galleries are two large tablets so perfectly painted and delicately shaded as, at a distance, to deceive the most practical eye. The pillars of these tablets are Hanover color, with an imitation gold cap and base. The light and shade are so perfectly blended as to make them an almost perfect imitation of raised pillars. The bottom is also painted to closely resemble a projecting base. The panel of the tablet is the color of Dayton stone. The inscription in the one on the south side is composed of texts selected from the 5th chapter of Matthew, the third to the ninth verses inclusive. That on the north contains the first to the fourth verses of the 23d Psalm. The letters are painted in blue shaded with white, the initials being carmine, and also shaded.

In the rear of the pulpit is painted a most perfect imitation of concave niche in beautifully blended light and shade. Brooklyn stone with stiles of Hanover color. The top, arching to the center, is painted Hanover color with stiles of Brooklyn. Surrounding the niche is a set of beads painted a light green. Outside of these is a ground of Hanover color; then a Grecian border with red diamonds and light beads. The pillars are Hanover color with caps and base of imitation gold. Surrounding this is a border of lilac with blocks of light buff.

The floor is covered with a handsome new, extra-superfine ingrain carpet. The pattern is a light shade flower and leaf on a running vine, with a dark ground. The pattern is somewhat larger than is usual in a church.

The cushions of the seats have all been completely renovated and upholstered, the work being done by Weeks & Barber and J. W. Stearns.

The organ has probably undergone the greatest transformation. The pillars and panels are painted a Hanover color, while the beads and mouldings are a light green. All the woodwork over and around the pipes, the trimmings, beads, Grecian work and base of the pillars are touched with gilt. It has also been overhauled on the inside. It was placed in position when the church was built, and tuned and used for the first time on June 13, 1860, since which time it has not been tuned or repaired in any way until the present time. Now, however, it has been completely overhauled, revoiced and tuned. There has also been one more stop added. It is now a twenty-eight stop organ, the new one being a "trumpet" stop. The most noticeable improvement to the eye is the extension of the key board. It has been extended outward from the organ five feet, and enclosed in a handsome black walnut case. This will be of great advantage to the organist, as in his former position it was almost impossible for him to hear and direct the choir. The greatest of all the improvements to it, however, is noticeable to the ear only. The revoicing has very much changed the tone, making it much fuller and also richer and mellower, while the trumpet stop adds much power. It is considered now to be the best toned, sweetest and most powerful organ in this vicinity. The improvements were made by workmen sent by the original builders, Messrs. E. & G. C. Hook & Hastings of Boston.

Inside the organ arch, over and around the organ, the walls and ceiling are painted a sky blue.

The entries are painted the same color as the lower portion of the body of the church, while the center one is surrounded by a handsome border.

The effect of the changes on the inside of the church is altogether very pleasing, although the walls, by some, might be considered too sombre. The ceiling, however, is very handsome and has a very pleasing effect.

The entire cost of the improvements mentioned will be, in round numbers, \$5,000, those on the organ alone reaching nearly the sum of \$1,000.

It is safe to say that the Congregational society has now one of the handsomest and most complete church edifices, in all its details, in New England. With their new chapel recently completed, and their now handsome and commodious church, the society should feel as if they were particularly blessed in the matter of a place of worship.